

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1837

To establish a temporary commission to recommend reforms in the laws
relating to elections for Federal office.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. MEEHAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Oversight, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a temporary commission to recommend reforms
in the laws relating to elections for Federal office.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Campaign Finance Re-
5 form Act of 1995”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE OF COMMISSION.**

7 There is established a commission to be known as the
8 “Campaign Finance Reform Commission” (hereinafter in
9 this Act referred to as the “Commission”). The purposes

1 of the Commission are to study the laws relating to elec-
2 tions for Federal office and to recommend reforms in
3 those laws.

4 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.**

5 (a) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be com-
6 posed of 13 members appointed from among individuals
7 who are not officers or employees of any government and
8 who are specially qualified to serve on the Commission by
9 reason of education, training, or experience. Of the mem-
10 bers of the Commission—

11 (1) 3 members shall be appointed by the major-
12 ity leader of the House of Representatives, and one
13 of those members shall be an independent;

14 (2) 3 members shall be appointed by the major-
15 ity leader of the Senate, and one of those members
16 shall be an independent;

17 (3) 3 members shall be appointed by the minor-
18 ity leader of the House of Representatives, and one
19 of those members shall be an independent;

20 (4) 3 members shall be appointed by the minor-
21 ity leader of the Senate, and one of those members
22 shall be an independent; and

23 (5) 1 member, who shall be designated as
24 Chairman of the Commission, shall be jointly ap-

1 pointed by the President and the Speaker of the
2 House of Representatives.

3 (b) INDEPENDENT DEFINED.—An independent mem-
4 ber of the Commission shall not have registered in or de-
5 clared officially his affiliation with a political party or
6 voted in the primary election of a political party in the
7 last 7 years, and shall never have held appointed or elected
8 public or party office.

9 (c) TERMS.—The members of the Commission shall
10 serve for the life of the Commission.

11 (d) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall
12 be filled in the manner in which the original appointment
13 was made.

14 (e) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 4
15 members of the Commission may be of the same political
16 party.

17 **SEC. 4. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

18 (a) HEARINGS.—The Commission may, for the pur-
19 pose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act
20 at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence
21 as the Commission considers appropriate.

22 (b) QUORUM.—Seven members of the Commission
23 shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold
24 hearings. Any member of the Commission may, if author-

1 ized by the Commission, take any action which the Com-
2 mission is authorized to take under this section.

3 **SEC. 5. REPORT AND RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION.**

4 Not later than 10 months after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Con-
6 gress a report of the activities of the Commission, together
7 with a draft of legislation (including technical and con-
8 forming provisions) recommended by the Commission to
9 reform the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2
10 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) and any other laws relating to elec-
11 tions for Federal office.

12 **SEC. 6. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMIS-**
13 **SION.**

14 In formulating its draft of legislation under section
15 5, the Commission shall consider ways to—

16 (1) increase confidence in the Federal electoral
17 system;

18 (2) increase voter participation;

19 (3) create a more equitable electoral system for
20 challengers and incumbents; and

21 (4) remove the negative and insidious aspects of
22 campaign financing.

23 **SEC. 7. FAST-TRACK PROCEDURES.**

24 (a) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND
25 SENATE.—This section is enacted by the Congress—

1 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
2 the House of Representatives and the Senate, re-
3 spectively, and as such they shall be considered as
4 part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of
5 that House to which they specifically apply, and
6 such rules shall supersede other rules only to the ex-
7 tent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

8 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional
9 right of either House to change the rules (so far as
10 relating to such House) at any time, in the same
11 manner and to the same extent as in the case of any
12 other rule of that House.

13 (b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term
14 “Federal election bill” means only a bill of either House
15 of Congress which is introduced as provided in subsection
16 (c) to carry out the recommendations of the Commission
17 as set forth in the draft of legislation referred to in section
18 5.

19 (c) INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL.—Within 3 days
20 after the Commission submits its draft legislation under
21 section 5, a Federal election bill shall be introduced (by
22 request) in the House by the majority leader of the House
23 or his designee and shall be introduced (by request) in
24 the Senate by the majority leader of the Senate or his

1 designee. Such bills shall be referred to the appropriate
2 committees.

3 (d) AMENDMENTS PROHIBITED.—No amendment to
4 a Federal election bill shall be in order in either the House
5 of Representatives or the Senate; and no motion to sus-
6 pend the application of this subsection shall be in order
7 in either House; nor shall it be in order in either House
8 to entertain a request to suspend the application of this
9 subsection by unanimous consent.

10 (e) PERIOD FOR COMMITTEE AND FLOOR CONSIDER-
11 ATION.—

12 (1) If the committee of either House to which
13 a Federal election bill has been referred has not re-
14 ported it at the close of the 20th day after its intro-
15 duction, such committee shall be automatically dis-
16 charged from further consideration of the bill and it
17 shall be placed on the appropriate calendar. If prior
18 to the passage by one House of a Federal election
19 bill of that House, that House receives the same
20 Federal election bill from the other House, then—

21 (A) the procedure in that House shall be
22 the same as if no Federal election bill had been
23 received from the other House; but

24 (B) the vote on final passage shall be on
25 the Federal election bill of the other House.

1 (2) For purposes of paragraph (1), in comput-
2 ing a number of days in either House, there shall be
3 excluded the days on which that House is not in ses-
4 sion because of an adjournment of more than 3 days
5 to a day certain or an adjournment of the Congress
6 sine die.

7 (f) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE.—

8 (1) A motion in the House of Representatives
9 to proceed to the consideration of a Federal election
10 bill shall be highly privileged except that a motion to
11 proceed to consider may only be made on the second
12 legislative day after the calendar day on which the
13 Member making the motion announces to the House
14 his intention to do so. The motion to proceed to con-
15 sider is not debatable. An amendment to the motion
16 shall not be in order, nor shall it be in order to move
17 to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed
18 to or disagreed to.

19 (2) Consideration of a Federal election bill in
20 the House of Representatives shall be in the House
21 with debate limited to not more than 10 hours,
22 which shall be divided equally between those favoring
23 and those opposing the bill. The previous question
24 on the Federal election bill shall be considered as or-
25 dered to final passage without intervening motion. It

1 shall not be in order to move to reconsider the vote
2 by which a Federal election bill is agreed to or dis-
3 agreed to.

4 (g) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

5 (1) A motion in the Senate to proceed to the
6 consideration of a Federal election bill shall be privi-
7 leged and not debatable. An amendment to the mo-
8 tion shall not be in order, nor shall it be in order
9 to move to reconsider the vote by which the motion
10 is agreed to or disagreed to.

11 (2) Debate in the Senate on a Federal election
12 bill, and all debatable motions and appeals in con-
13 nection therewith, shall be limited to not more than
14 10 hours. The time shall be equally divided between,
15 and controlled by, the majority leader and the mi-
16 nority leader or their designees.

17 (3) Debate in the Senate on any debatable mo-
18 tion or appeal in connection with a Federal election
19 bill shall be limited to not more than one hour, to
20 be equally divided between, and controlled by, the
21 mover and the manager of the bill, except that in
22 the event the manager of the bill is in favor of any
23 such motion or appeal, the time in opposition there-
24 to, shall be controlled by the minority leader or his
25 designee. Such leaders, or either of them, may, from

1 time under their control on the passage of a Federal
2 election bill, allot additional time to any Senator
3 during the consideration of any debatable motion or
4 appeal.

5 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

6 The Commission shall cease to exist 3 months after
7 the date of the submission of its report under section 5.

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